

Freedom: *A free society is a place where it's safe to be unpopular.* —Adlai Stevenson, former U.S. vice president

Regional Roundup

POD HR director Kajikawa retires after 31 years; 14 with Corps



Vernon Kajikawa, longtime Pacific Ocean Division director of Human Resources retired in late July following 31 years of federal service. He had been with POD since 1987. In remarks at Kajikawa's retirement luncheon, then-Commander Brig. Gen. Randal Castro said that it is the measure of this man and his achievements throughout his career that he probably shined brightest during the turbulent period of

reorganizing POD into a stand-alone Division and District after being combined for more than twenty years. Anybody can succeed during good times, said Castro. Kajikawa helped recast an entire organization of some 450 personnel and every job description and did so without most people being aware of the enormous effort it took to accomplish. —Photos by Alexander Kufel

Inspection...

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government program proponents throughout Hawaii and remains thoroughly committed to ensuring that the quality of the inspections and the partnering relationships continue with the local sponsors.

Meyers said that of immediate concern is that the terminology used for evaluation criteria is going to change. The ICW program will be using ER500-1-1 as its source for the rating system and frequency of inspections.

July 19 and 20, the Mississippi Valley Division and the St. Louis District played host to a national workshop intended to raise the major issues and begin "forging a blueprint" for the ICW program. HED was represented by Rick Oleniacz and Dan Meyers; POD was represented by Ken Suiso.

Six issues were raised: ICW Policy, Project Management Plan, Program Funding, Inspection Reporting, Sponsor Performance, and Enforcement. Headquarters USACE is consolidating these elements and has immediate plans to assemble a national working group to develop a national ICW policy and program. Volunteers for the task were solicited during the workshop and HED Natural Disaster Manager Richard Oleniacz stepped forward.

"HED is at the forefront of this new ICW program," said

Oleniacz, who is also an engineer. HED EM has already written the first ICW program Project Management Plan, he said, and he intends to take it with him to Washington, D.C. to use as a model at the national working group level.

Meyers said that HED Commander Lt. Col. Ronald N. Light and EM chief Joel Hendrix have been extremely supportive of efforts to integrate the latest technology with HED's inspection program wherever it is beneficial.

"Right now, hydraulic engineer Benton Ching and myself are developing something we're calling DIFIP (Digital Information Field Inspection Program)," said Meyers. "It enables us to put all related project information such as as-built drawings, maps, charts, photographs, correspondence and even technical manuals onto a CD-ROM disk and take it with us to the actual site where we can do comparisons and refer to whatever information we require." It's still a prototype, but a brief demonstration suggests that it will be a very effective tool in the field, particularly when CD-ROM disks are developed for each project. Oleniacz said that HED-EM has already

submitted a request to fund the DIFIP

"I look for HED to take a leading role in the new direction of ICW program thanks in great part to the excellent engineering expertise we have in this program," said Oleniacz.



Emergency operations planner Richard Oleniacz. —Photo by Alexander Kufel.